

GENEALOGY

Choisy, 'Albert. *Notice Généalogique et Historique sur La Famille Mallet de Genève, originaire de Rouen.* Geneva, 1930. Imprimerie Atar. (Privately printed.) Pp. 165.

THE Mallet family came originally from Rouen; in 1558 Jaques Mallet, owing to his Protestant opinions, left France for Switzerland. Geneva was for long thereafter the headquarters of the family, and at Geneva a family reunion was held in August of last year, at which seventy of the name were present, belonging to as many as four different nationalities, Swiss, French, British, and American, so widely had the family spread its branches during the intervening centuries.

While settled solely in Switzerland the Mallets were successful in many forms of commercial enterprise, but it was not till the eighteenth century that real distinction arose. In the early part of that century Isaac Mallet settled in Paris as a banker, while during its concluding years, the celebrated Mallet du Pan came to England, and Paul Mallet-Prevost emigrated to the United States. (Both were Mallets in the male line, but had added their maternal surnames, subsequently dropped by the English branch.)

In the eighteenth century special distinction was attained by Jaques André Mallet, as an astronomer; by the brothers Henry and Paul Mallet, the one as a geographer, the other as an historian, and by Jaques Mallet du Pan as a publicist; and in the nineteenth century by Sir Louis Mallet as an economist, and by Charles Mallet-Prevost as a general in the American Civil War. All these appear in biographical dictionaries, and their attainments illustrate the versatility so characteristic of good stocks. The French branch, while producing no man of outstanding note, included among its members a long line of successful bankers, and the Bank of France itself has for generations numbered a Mallet among its directors.

No branch has, however, shown more con-

sistent ability than the English, among whose members at the present day are Sir Bernard Mallet, the late Registrar-General and our President; Sir Louis Mallet, late Ambassador at Constantinople; and Sir Charles Mallet, the historian. An intermarriage with the brilliant Merivale family was without doubt of immense advantage to this branch, and a perusal of this book makes it abundantly clear that the Mallets have shown wisdom in their choice of the families whence they took their wives. Hence the gradual rise to eminence in the eighteenth century and the subsequent retention of the position thus attained.

W. T. J. GUN.

GENERAL BIOLOGY

Goodrich, Professor E. S., M.A., D.Sc., LL.D. F.R.S. *Studies on the Structure and Development of Vertebrates.* London, 1930. Macmillan. Pp. xxx + 837 with 754 text figs. Price 36s.

THE student who turns the pages of this *magnum opus* in vertebrate morphology, first in a preliminary survey and then in frequent search of thousands of facts and interpretations, must be more and more impressed with the immensity of the author's labours. For in eight hundred and thirty-seven pages the author has given us the chief results of one thousand, one hundred, and eighty-six publications, which are discussed in the body of the text and given in the bibliography.

The material is classified and arranged under the following chapter headings: Vertebral Column, Ribs and Girdles, Median Fins, Paired Limbs, Limb Girdles, Morphology of the Head Region, The Skull, Skeletal Visceral Arches and Labial Cartilages, Middle Ear and Ear Ossicles, Visceral Clefts and Gills, Vascular System and Heart, Air-Bladder and Lungs, Sub-divisions of the Cœlom and Diaphragm, Excretory Organs and Genital Ducts, Peripheral Nervous System and Sense Organs.

The text is illustrated with seven hundred